

I. INTRODUCTION

The economic and social well-being of a region is largely dependent upon an adequate overall transportation system. Unless people and goods are able to move from one place to another quickly and conveniently, the area becomes dormant and unable to develop to its full economic potential. Realizing the key role that highways play in this transportation system it has become increasingly necessary to develop a good continuous network of national, state, and regional highways which can efficiently handle present and anticipated traffic needs.

The following thoroughfare plan is designed to provide a network of principal arterial roads, minor arterial roads, major and minor collector roads, and local roads which will become the backbone for the county road system.

The proposed system of thoroughfares was developed following the basic principles of thoroughfare planning as described in Section II of this report. Thoroughfares were located based upon field investigation, existing and anticipated land use and population distribution, and topographic conditions. The plan advocates those improvements which are felt to be essential for proper traffic circulation within the current planning period (1993-2015).

Proposed improvements within the county plan will be primarily the responsibility of the Division of Highways. However, Jackson County through the use of subdivision and zoning controls can do much toward the implementation of the plan. Thus, it is desirable that the plan be formally approved by both the County and the Board of Transportation to serve as the mutual official guide in the development of the thoroughfare system.

It should be emphasized that the route studies conducted as part of this thoroughfare planning study were not detailed enough to determine what the ultimate improvement would be, i.e., widening or relocation. The locations shown on the thoroughfare plan should therefore be considered as corridor locations with more detailed studies to actually precede the construction of specific projects.